



County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street, Room 713, Los Angeles, California 90012
(213) 974-1101
<http://ceo.lacounty.gov>

WILLIAM T FUJIOKA
Chief Executive Officer

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Second District

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Third District

DON KNABE
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

March 27, 2009

To: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. T. Fujioka", is written over the printed name and title.

WASHINGTON, D.C. UPDATE

Omnibus Public Land Management Act (H.R. 146)

On March 25, 2009, the House passed H.R. 146, the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009, by a vote of 285 to 140, clearing it for the President, who has indicated that he will sign it into law. The legislation consolidates more than 160 separate public lands bills that previously were introduced in the 110th Congress.

H.R. 146 includes the Eastern Sierra and Northern San Gabriel Wild Heritage Act, which was introduced in 2008 by Senator Boxer and Representative McKeon. As originally introduced, the Eastern Sierra and Northern San Gabriel Wild Heritage Act would have designated over 470,000 acres of public land in California as wilderness, including 42,133 acres of land in Los Angeles County, located within the Angeles National Forest.

The Board adopted a motion on September 2, 2008, to support the Eastern Sierra and Northern San Gabriel Wild Heritage Act if it were amended to incorporate language which would enable fire agencies, including the Los Angeles County Fire Department, to retain their ability to carry out fire prevention, control, and suppression activities in areas within the County which would be designated as wilderness. The County's Washington, D.C. advocates worked with the bill's sponsors to modify the fire protection language and to remove parcels from the proposed wilderness designation that were

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adjacent to the residential communities of Juniper Hills and Sand Canyon. These areas were removed in order to provide a buffer zone between residences and the proposed wilderness areas to provide these communities with better protection from wildfires. The County Fire Department supported these changes, which would allow it to work directly with the Supervisor of the Angeles National Forest to adopt an updated fire management plan. Late in 2008, the Forest Service also recommended the removal of additional lands south of Santa Clarita from the bill. Based on information from County Fire and the Forest Service, the amount of land in the Angeles National Forest that the bill designates as wilderness was reduced to 39,039 acres, consisting of 12,282 acres in the proposed Magic Mountain Wilderness Area and 26,757 acres in the proposed Pleasant View Ridge Wilderness Area.

The County and the Forest Service changes were incorporated into the Senate version (S. 22) which was introduced on January 6, 2009, as well as the final version of H.R. 146, which was cleared for the President.

White House Forum on Health Reform

The White House will hold a Western regional forum on health care at 10:30 a.m. on April 6, 2009 at the California Endowment, 1000 North Alameda Street, in Los Angeles. Three regional forums already have been held in Des Moines, Iowa; Burlington, Vermont; and Dearborn, Michigan. Another forum will be held in Greensboro, North Carolina on March 31, 2009, before the final forum is held in Los Angeles. Individuals also will be invited to "attend" the forum through a satellite link from locations in San Diego, Clovis, and Oakland. The event in Los Angeles will be co-moderated by California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger; Washington Governor Christine Gregoire, and representatives from the Obama Administration.

Previous forums have included a cross-section of citizens, including local officials; health care providers, physicians, patients, hospitals, medical researchers, business persons, and the elderly. The forums are designed to solicit information and recommendations from participants on health reform issues as part of an a more "open, inclusive, and transparent process." The Western regional forum will address strategies to lower costs, expand coverage, and improve the health of Americans.

We will continue to keep you advised.

WTF:GK
MAL:MT:er

c: All Department Heads
Legislative Strategist